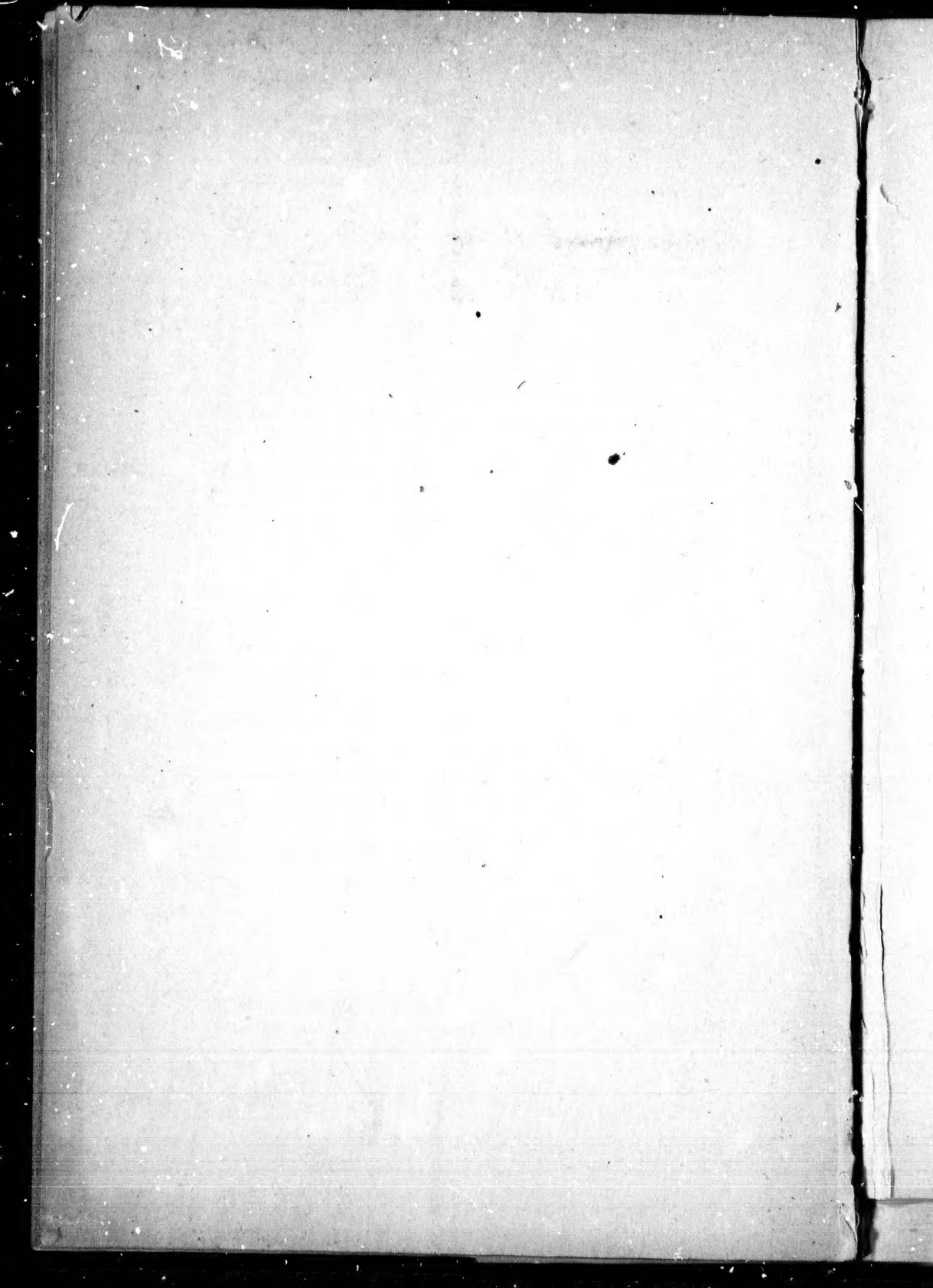




ANSWER

TO

HIS LORDSHIP THE BISHOP OF ONTARIO'S STATEMENT

THAT THE LATE

*Metropolitan "told him that he (Bishop Fulford) had
"never anything to do with bringing Dr. Balch to
"Montreal further than that he had not opposed the
"scheme."*

TO WHICH IS ADDED AS AN

APPENDIX,

The recent production of the Hon. John Hamilton.

The friends of the Rev. Canon Balch have carefully abstained hitherto from taking part in the newspaper and pamphleteering controversies which his enemies have seen fit to inflict upon the public. They have admired the spirit of christian forbearance which has induced the reverend gentleman himself to endure in silence many vexatious and slanderous accusations, feeling assured that his best defence is the quiet and blameless life of a faithful and laborious christian minister. They do not attempt here to account for the persistent vindictiveness of Dr. Balch's assailants, many of whom, perhaps, are themselves deceived by a few crafty and designing men. Their confidence in him results partly from the knowledge of his excellent personal qualities and his great power and use-

fulness as a Canon of the Cathedral, but chiefly because they regard him as a representative man of sound Protestant views, around whom moderate Churchmen may rally with confidence in these days of the Church's great peril.

Not wishing to drag his name into mere personal controversies, they have not undertaken his defence when assailed by acrimonious scribblers.

A recent pamphlet by the Hon. John Hamilton would have merited also the contempt of silence but for the dexter hand which appears to be Mr. Hamilton's manipulator. The Hon. John Hamilton was the brother-in-law of the Bishop of Ontario. In our Cathedral difficulties there are many who believe the latter to have been the secret adviser of a dissatisfied minority. His lordship does not love peace. He sees our troubles subsiding and he hurls among us another apple of discord.

On the 6th of December last Mr. Chancellor Bethune stated at the Cathedral Vestry Meeting, in effect, that the late lamented Metropolitan had been instrumental in bringing Dr. Balch to this country. His lordship of Ontario at once authorizes Mr. Hamilton to contradict the Chancellor's statement, or in other words, states "That the late lamented Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan, when on board the steamer going to England to attend the Pan-Anglican Conference, told the Bishops of Ontario and Quebec, as well as an American Bishop, (whose name I do not at this moment recall,) that he had never anything to do with bringing Dr. Balch to Montreal further than that he had not opposed the *scheme*."

What follows will shew that the Chancellor was quite correct. The question of *veracity* rests between the revered dead and the living Bishop. Did we call it a question? Why did his lordship of Ontario thrust himself into this unhappy controversy and ask us to believe him instead of the written testimony of the great and good man whom he presumes to contradict.

MONTREAL, February 5, 1870.

REV. CANON BALCH, D.D.,

Senior Canon Christ Church Cathedral.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—The undersigned members of the Cathedral Congregation having seen a statement of his Lordship the Bishop of Ontario as published in a pamphlet bearing the name of the Hon. John Hamilton, and circulated in this diocese, to the effect that the late lamented Metropolitan had declared on an occasion specified “that he (Bishop Fulford) “had never anything to do with bringing Dr. Balch to Montreal,” feel compelled to meet that statement with such proofs as will settle the controversy.

They therefore beg that you will kindly place at their disposal the letters alluded to by Mr. Chancellor Bethune, at the late Vestry Meeting held on the 6th of December last, with a view to their publication.

They regret to feel that this course is necessary, especially as they are informed that some of the letters are marked “private,” and if only the reputation of the living were compromised they might refrain, but surely these slanders of the illustrious dead should be silenced.

Yours faithfully,

(Signed,)

GEORGE SMITH,
ROBERT EVANS,
M. H. GAULT,
THOS. HOWARD,
JOHN JAMES BROWNE,
D. RUSS WOOD,
G. MACRAE,
L. S. HUNTINGTON,
T. S. BROWN,
GEORGE BARNSTON,
A. R. BETHUNE,
JOHN M. JONES,
THOMAS SIMPSON, } *Church*
JOHN SWANSTON, } *Wardens.*

MONTREAL, February 5, 1870.

TO MESSRS. SMITH, EVANS and others,

GENTLEMEN,—I have to acknowledge your favor of this day asking permission to publish the letters of the late lamented Metropolitan, alluded to by Mr. Chancellor Bethune, at the Vestry Meeting held on the 6th December last.

I regret to believe that the publication of these letters has become necessary, but for the reasons you have stated, I feel it my duty to place them at your disposal.

Perhaps you may reach your object by publishing only such portions as relate to the point in dispute, but I am willing to leave the whole matter to the discretion of my friends.

I hand you also a letter from Bishop Talbot, of Indiana, bearing upon the same subject.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed,)

LEWIS P. W. BALCH.

SEE HOUSE, Montreal, Oct. 20, 1865.

MY DEAR DR. BALCH,

Your letter of the 18th reached me this afternoon, and I lose no time in replying to it by return of post, as you desire. You ask my opinion as to Nebraska. I certainly do not see that the offer of Bishop Talbot at all alters the question as affecting you. It is, of course, a serious thing to advise a person how to act in such a matter, and specially as you are now unsettled, with the world before you, where to seek your resting place, and Providence your guide ; still I must adhere to my opinion, as expressed to you before, that I do not think it fair to expect you, at your time of life, though still fit for many years of good service, yet with such a family, to go out and settle in the far West. I cannot see that it is necessarily a duty to accept such an appointment, as there may be others, well fitted for it, willing to go, and without your, if I may use the term in a technical sense, "incumbrances."

And if you feel this in any strong measure, I certainly would not go out and look at it, as it would be holding out expectations and be more difficult to refuse. But if you do not take this, what then? As I told you, I wish we could secure you here, but we have, at best, little to offer, and I am not able positively to offer even that little. If Canon——were to leave I have little hesitation in saying I think you might become one of our Cathedral Clergy, but the present salary is only \$1400 of our money. I think the post would be agreeable to you, and you acceptable and useful to us.***

With affectionate greetings from all of us to you and yours,

Ever, believe me, yours very sincerely,

(Signed,)

F. MONTREAL.

SEE HOUSE, 22nd Dec., 1865.

MY DEAR DR. BALCH,

I lose no time in replying to your letter. I venture from the permission kindly given in your letter to consider it as a settled thing that you will be with us about the 12th of January. When I mentioned that there was some chance of your being here, there was such satisfaction expressed that I feel sure I shall do best in being satisfied with that arrangement. And if you have any wish, hereafter, to carry out the plan we have talked of it will be well to keep you in the minds of the people who are so well disposed to appreciate you.****

I remain, yours very sincerely,

(Signed,)

F. MONTREAL.

SEE HOUSE, Montreal, 26th Jan., 1866.

MY DEAR DR. BALCH,

I had a telegram sent off to you this morning, briefly stating that all was arranged satisfactorily, and that the offer

of the appointment from the Dean would be sent to you by post. I now enclose a copy of the Dean's letter to me from which you will see that his wife is dead since you left, and also a copy of the letter of the Church-wardens to the Dean and an official letter from myself. In *this* I shall enter more into particulars. First I may say that the Church-wardens inform me that they had no difficulty at all in getting the list filled up, and some of the subscribers expressed their readiness to double their subscription. They mean to go on through the whole congregation and raise a few hundreds more, as caution money, in case of any deaths, removals, or other causes of failure amongst the subscribers, which, in any number of persons, is always to be reckoned on * * *

so that you may fairly expect a cordial welcome from the clergy. Of course those in the country could have no reason but to be glad at any accession of strength to our body, which I hope you would bring to us, and the matter having proceeded, thus far, so successfully, I trust nothing will occur to hinder the consummation. I think you may be happy and comfortable here with your family, with ample opportunities for educating them, and certainly a very wide and important field of usefulness for yourself, *and I may add that the matter having progressed so far, and the people having taken it up so warmly, I fear, if not carried, there will be an injurious reaction of disappointment in the congregation, and that some of them, who have not been over satisfied hitherto, may leave.*

* * * * *

It would be very desirable that you should come here the beginning of June. Our Diocesan Synod meets the third Wednesday, and you should be regularly appointed before that and take your place. I told you we talked of going for a visit to England, about the middle of August, and I should wish to see you well at work and incorporated with us before I leave. * * * * *

Our very kindest regards to Mrs. Baich, whom I look upon as our firm friend in this matter.

Ever yours sincerely,
(Signed,) F. MONTREAL.

SEE HOUSE, Montreal, Jan. 26, 1866.

MY DEAR DR. BALCH,

I herewith forward to you copies of two letters, one from the Church-wardens of the Cathedral to the Dean and the other from the Dean to me; and according to the request of the Dean, I now write to you in his name to propose that you should come and join the staff of clergy connected with Christ's Church Cathedral in this city. The nomination rests solely and absolutely with the Dean; the stipend is guaranteed by the Church-wardens on behalf of a large body of the congregation. I need not enlarge upon the very important and extensive field of usefulness that will be opened up to you, should you be able to come amongst us, nor how gladly you will be welcomed by myself and the general voice of the clergy, with many of whom you have already become intimate. I will only further add that, upon your appointment by the Dean, as one of the officiating clergy of the Cathedral, it will afford me much satisfaction to mark my own appreciation of your worth, by nominating you as one of the Canons, and, if you will accept the position, place your name in the list of my Chaplains, in addition to Archdeacon Leach and Canon Loosemore. I sincerely pray that you may be directed to a right decision, by the gracious guidance of the Holy Spirit; and that, whether here or elsewhere, you may be blessed and made a blessing through Jesus Christ.

Believe me, my dear Dr. Balch,

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed,) F. MONTREAL.

TELEGRAM.

Montreal, January 26, 1866.

REV. DR. BALCH,

Newport.

All fully arranged. Dean's offer goes to-day. Snow stops trains.

(Signed,)

F. MONTREAL.

SEE HOUSE, Montreal, 2nd February, 1866.

MY DEAR DR. BALCH,

* * * I am glad you think it possible, if you do come, that you may be able to be in Montreal by April; the sooner the better. I shall be very anxious to know your final decision. * * * *

With very kindest regards,

I remain, yours very sincerely,

(Signed,)

F. MONTREAL.

SEE HOUSE, Montreal, February 13, 1866.

MY DEAR DR. BALCH,

* * * * *

The Church-wardens were with me yesterday, speaking about reports you had heard, as to some opposition made here to your coming. Neither I, nor the Dean, nor the Church-wardens, are cognizant of anything the least worth noticing—quite the contrary. And I feel confident, when once you are settled here, you will find that you are welcomed by the congregation at the Cathedral, as well as by the Clergy and Church in general. * * * *

With our very kindest regards,

I remain, yours very sincerely,

(Signed,)

F. MONTREAL.

The letter from Bishop Talbot, referred to by Dr. Balch, is dated Indianapolis, December 1st, 1868, and contains the following passage, which is singularly corroborative of what is stated in Bishop Fulford's first letter:—"You will remember how earnestly I desired, during the general convention of 1865, to see you elected Bishop of Nebraska, to which, at that time, you were averse. I spoke, indeed, to Bishop Fulford about it, and asked him to use his influence to get your consent to the use of your name. So, I think, did another of our Bishops, but his reply was, 'that you were too useful in Canada to be spared, and he was unwilling to lose you, even to have you a Bishop in the States.' "

In the exercise of the discretion permitted to us by Dr. Balch, we have extracted such portions only of the letters referred to, as bear directly upon the point in question. All words italicised are thus in the original letters. We add to this statement, as an appendix, the pamphlet of the Hon. John Hamilton. We should be sorry that such *strong* evidence of the christian feeling which its concoctors shew, should not receive wide circulation. Such of the above letters and extracts as purport to be from the late Metropolitan, are entirely in his handwriting and are signed by him.

G. SMITH,
M. H. GAULT,
THOS. HOWARD,
JNO. M. JONES,
D. RUSS WOOD,
L. S. HUNTINGTON,
F. MACCULLOCH,
G. E. FENWICK, M.D.,
JOHN LOVELL,
W. B. LAMBE,
THOMAS SIMPSON, } *Church*
JOHN SWANSTON, } *Wardens.*

APPENDIX.

Which shall we believe: the late Metropolitan or the Junior Canons and Senior Curate of Christ Church Cathedral, Montreal? A letter addressed to the Rev. Rural Dean Lonsdell, by Hon. John Hamilton, together with a correspondence between Mr. Chancellor Bethune and the Hon. John Hamilton, on the same subject.

Letter from the Hon. John Hamilton to the Rural Dean of St. Andrews.

TYRELLA HOUSE,

MONTREAL, 25th January, 1870.

To the Reverend R. LONSDALL,

Rural Dean,

DEANERY OF ST. ANDREWS, P.Q.

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR,—I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in addressing the following letter to you, without having first obtained your consent. I do so, however, as you are the Rural Dean of the Deanery of which I have the honour to be one of the Lay representatives in the Synod of the Diocese of Montreal. I do so because of your long service in the Diocese, and I do so because you are an old friend of my own.

I should much rather that some other party had taken up the subject, to which this correspondence refers; but as no one has done so, and as I feel that it is extremely desirable that the attention of the members of our communion, in the Diocese of Montreal, should be called to the points raised in it, I have felt it my duty to bring the subject under their notice in this way.

I remain, &c.,

Yours very truly,

JOHN HAMILTON.

Letter from the Hon. John Hamilton to the Rural Dean of St. Andrews.

MONTREAL, 25th January, 1870.

Reverend R. LONSDALL,

Rural Dean,

ST. ANDREWS.

REVEREND SIR,—When I first read the account of the proceedings at the never to be forgotten meeting of the Vestry of Christ Church Cathedral, held on the 6th December last, my first feeling was one of astonishment, that as far as the majority of that Vestry was concerned, the Rev. Canon Loosemore should have been dismissed from his position, but it was one of regret and amazement that our grave and sober Chancellor had attended such a meeting, and had not only done so, but had made a strongly partisan speech in favour of the Rev. Dr. Balch. This speech was all the more effective at the moment, coming as it did from one

hitherto so much respected, and, besides that, the "Dean's son;" but that such a man should have forgotten the respect due to his position is, indeed, marvellous. I felt very much surprised at some of the statements he is reported to have then made, but more especially as regards the following, in which, speaking of Dr. Balch, he says:—He had seen the "late Bishop's letters urging him to come here instead of accepting the Bishopric of Nebraska, which Dr. Balch had then the offer of, and about his acceptance of which Dr. Balch had written to the Bishop."

Having frequently heard from private and personal friends of the late Bishop that he had done nothing to induce Dr. Balch to come here, I naturally felt very much astonished at this, and on the first occasion that I had the pleasure of meeting the Chancellor, in the course of conversation I referred to his speech, and the result of our conversation is possibly more plainly than pleasantly described in the subjoined correspondence.

There is an old story of a Mayor of Hull, who, on the occasion of a visit her Majesty paid to that ancient town, neglected to fire a Royal salute, and on being asked to account for his neglect, replied that he had nineteen reasons to give for it. The first being that he had no powder, the other eighteen were therefore dispensed with. So, though I have several parties to whom I might refer, to verify what I am about to write, yet, for the present, I shall only name one, and shall be surprised if he is not an authority as effective as was the reason of the absence of powder in the case of the salute:

The Lord Bishop of Ontario has specially authorized me to make the following statement, viz.: "That the late lamented Bishop of Montreal and Metropolitan, when on board the steamer going to England, to attend the Pan-Anglican Conference, told the Bishops of Ontario and Quebec, as well as an American Bishop (whose name I do not at this moment recall), that he had never anything to do with bringing Dr. Balch to Montreal, further than that he had not opposed the *scheme*."

This must, I think, be quite sufficient to satisfy all who respect our late Bishop's memory, that the Chancellor spoke "unadvisedly with his lips" at the meeting referred to, unless, indeed, he or his *guide, counsellor and friend*, produce letters in the late Bishop's *handwriting*, confirmatory of the Chancellor's statements; and this I feel satisfied they cannot do;—if they can, let them.

It may be asked, perhaps, why I assume, in my letter to Mr. Bethune, of the 22nd instant, that the Rev. Dr. Balch knew I would not "enter his house under any circumstances." In reply, I would say, that had any person told me that I had "stated the reverse of what was true, and that "any sophistry of which I was capable, could not alter the facts," I certainly could not imagine that such a man would come under my roof, unless, indeed, he had apologized in the interval. Such, I imagine, were the sentiments of the Rev. Dr. Balch. He made a bold stroke of apparent readiness to meet me, provided he had the protection of his friend (the Chancellor) to shield him from my hands. But it is only fair to give the Reverend Doctor and his followers credit in this one respect at least, that they are consistent;—for since his advent amongst us, nothing that cool effrontery or intrigue has enabled them to demand or assert has ever been lost to them, trusting to that torpid slumber, in which, until quite recently, all matters appertaining to the Anglican communion in this Diocese were wrapt up. I feel conscious, however, that in taking the course I am now doing, I must be prepared to meet a perfect avalanche

of abuse, to say nothing of all the "wise saws and modern instances" of which the members of the "Select Vestry" of the "so-called Parish Church" (but really Cathedral) will be delivered at my expense. However, as my shoulders are broad, and my digestion good, I shall survive them much more readily than many other things I have encountered in the journey through life.

All those who recollect the Synod of November, 1868, and the adjourned Synod in May, 1869, will bear in mind the kind of consideration and fair play shown by the Reverend Doctor and his supporters in the selection of committees, and in everything that was done; but, after all, thank God, they were disappointed then; and though they have recently taken an apparently new lease of life, and succeeded in inducing Canon Loosemore to resign his position as Senior Curate in the Cathedral, yet they have done it at an expense that none but the most insensate among them ever could have contemplated, for they have driven from the Cathedral congregation, without remorse, some of its oldest and most respected members, as well as brought down on them the contempt of men of all churches and parties, outside, of course, of "their very Select Vestry."

Though, no doubt, the Bishopric of Nebraska was, at the time the Chancellor refers to, a very remote and out-of-the-way portion of creation, yet now it certainly must be a position—looking at it in a mere worldly sense,—vastly superior to that of "Junior Canon" of our Cathedral and "Senior Curate" of the "Anglican Parish Church of our Cathedral of Montreal," as its Vestry apparently wish us to consider it, whether we will or not, and, seeing that a "Race for a Bishopric" is like other races—a very uncertain one—I fancy the Rev. Doctor must feel that he played away a chance in not taking the ball at the hop, and becoming Bishop of Nebraska, in place of vegetating in a position where, after all, his admirers are pretty much comprised within the limits of a very Select Vestry.

My letter has already stretched out to an unpardonable length. This has been, however, unavoidable. Repeating my challenge to the Rev. Dr. Balch, and his faithful friend, the Chancellor, to produce the letters, I beg to subscribe myself,

My dear Mr. Lonsdell,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN HAMILTON.

Letter from Hon John Hamilton to Strachan Bethune, Esq., Q. C., Chancellor of the Diocese of Montreal.

[Copy.]

TYRELLA HOUSE, 15th Jan., 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—A few days, or rather some two or three weeks, since, when we met at Judge McKay's at dinner, you promised to let me have the perusal of the three letters (so curiously found by Mrs. Balch), in which the late Metropolitan urged the Rev. Dr. Balch to come to Montreal to occupy the post he now holds in the Cathedral staff. In fact, if I did not misunderstand you, you stated, both at the Vestry Meeting and to myself, that it was these letters which brought Dr. Balch here. I had hoped to have heard from you, in the interval, as to when I could see these letters, but suppose it has been overlooked in the press of business. Circumstances have lately, however, come to my knowledge which make me more than ever curious to see these letters. May I therefore remind

you of your promise, and request its fulfilment at your earliest convenience. A reply will oblige.

Yours truly,

JOHN HAMILTON.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

Letter from Strachan Bethune, Esq., to Hon. John Hamilton.

[Copy.]

MONTREAL, 17th Jan., 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am this moment only in receipt of yours of the 15th inst. You misunderstood what I really said. I certainly never intended to *promise* to let you have the perusal of the late Bishop Fulford's letters to Dr. Balch on the subject of his removal to Montreal, as the letters were not in my possession. What I thought I said, and what I really intended to say, was that I had no doubt, if you wished to see the letters, that I could secure you a perusal of them. As you did not ask me (so far as I understood) to try and arrange for your seeing them, I of course naturally dismissed the matter from my mind. I shall now, however, endeavour to have your curiosity gratified.

Yours truly,

STRACHAN BETHUNE.

HON. JOHN HAMILTON,

Tyrella House, Montreal.

From the same to the same

[Copy.]

17th January, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—Since writing to you this morning (through the post), I have received the enclosed from Dr. Balch, which I send by a messenger. I shall of course be in attendance at the time and place named.

Yours truly,

STRACHAN BETHUNE.

HON. JOHN HAMILTON.

Letter from Rev. Canon Balch to Strachan Bethune, Esq.

[Copy.]

MONTREAL, Jan. 17th, 1870.

DEAR MR. BETHUNE,—I have just received your note of this morning, enclosing one from the Hon. John Hamilton. Were it not for my personal regard for you, I should repel the base insinuation contained in Mr. Hamilton's letter by refusing him any communication whatever of the letters he affects to be so curious of seeing, but as I cannot allow you to be placed in a false position, I have to state that Mr. Hamilton can see the letters (provided you are present) at my house, at half-past nine to-morrow morning.

Very sincerely yours,

LEWIS P. W. BALCH.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

Letter from Hon. John Hamilton to Strachan Bethune, Esq.

[Copy.]

TYRELLA HOUSE, 17th Jan., 1879.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am just in receipt of your second note of this day's date; the first, however, through some inadvertence in the Post-Office, has not reached me.

Though desirous of ocular demonstration of the asserted fact that the late Bishop of Montreal invited Dr. Balch to come to the Cathedral, yet if I cannot be gratified without undergoing the nuisance of an interview with the Rev. Dr. Balch, I must forego the wished-for proof.

If you, however, will kindly inspect the letters, and give me the extracts bearing upon the subject, it will answer my purpose. I may add that I would not thus trouble you were it not that I have it on the authority of several gentlemen of undoubted respectability that the late Metropolitan most positively assured them that he never had anything to do with bringing the Rev. Dr. Balch to Montreal, further than that he had not opposed the scheme.

I am, yours faithfully,
JOHN HAMILTON.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

From the same to the same.

[Copy.]

TYRELLA HOUSE, 22nd Jan., 1879.

DEAR SIR,—Herewith find copy of a letter which I addressed to you last Monday, and which my servant left at your residence that evening, but to which you have not yet deigned the courtesy of a reply. I am, therefore, compelled to ask whether you intend to comply with the request made in it or not? For in any case you must see that the question referred to can scarcely be left where it is, touching as it does the personal honour and veracity of the late Metropolitan, as well as that of others.

It seems to me that had *your friend*, the Rev. Dr. Balch, been *really desirous that you should not be placed in a false position*, he would have named a place of meeting other than his own house, which he knew perfectly well I would not enter under any circumstances, and where, too, he so *blandly* insinuates that your presence was absolutely necessary for his protection.

Waiting your reply,

I am, yours faithfully,
JOHN HAMILTON.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

Letter from Strachan Bethune, Esq., to John Hamilton.

[Copy.]

MONTREAL, 22nd Jan., 1879.

DEAR SIR,—When your servant left the note of the 17th inst., and asked for an answer, I said, "Say there is no answer." I presumed you would understand by that, that I did not intend to request Dr. Balch's

permission, under the circumstances, to make the extracts you desired from the letters in question. As you seem, however, not so to have understood the matter, I write to say that it was quite impossible for me, in view of the terms of your note, to ask any such favour as you sought, and that the threat, in your note of the 22nd inst., just received, as to my own position, prohibits my entertaining your project for a single moment.

I am, yours faithfully,

STACHAN BETHUNE.

Hon. JOHN HAMILTON.

Letter from Hon. John Hamilton to S. Bethune, Esq.

[Copy.]

TYRELLA HOUSE, 24th Jan., 1870.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 22nd, permit me to say that, having no expectation, or desire either, for an immediate reply to mine of the 17th inst., I did not direct my servant to ask for one, nor did he give me your message.

Not being gifted with that profound legal acumen, for which Pennsylvania lawyers get the credit of being famous, I entirely fail to see *when* or *where* I have ever asked you to obtain any favour for me, at the hands of the Rev. Dr. Bulch. I certainly suggested to you, as politely as I could, a method in which you might fulfil a promise you *voluntarily* made. In the following words, taken from your own letter, you say: "You had no doubt, if I wished to see the letters, you could secure me the perusal of them," to which, though you seem to forget it, I replied, "I would very much like to see them."

It might have been as well, before you remarked on my style of writing, had you recalled to mind that of your reverend friend, the Doctor, who, in a letter to you, which you were injudicious enough to enclose to me, thus *pleasantly* expresses himself:—"Were it not for my personal regard for you, I should repel the *base insinuation* contained in Mr. Hamilton's letter, by refusing him any communication whatever of the letters he affects to be so desirous of seeing." As regards any threat, as far as you are concerned, I am wholly unconscious of having made any; my worst opinion, as far as you are concerned, might be expressed pretty much as follows:—That you had, perhaps, willingly allowed yourself to be misled into believing that such letters really existed; or supposing them to exist, in any shape, they can only bear the interpretation you put upon them in your speech at the Vestry Meeting, after the skilful manipulation of one more astute than yourself.

As you, however, decline to entertain the project you say I made, even for a single moment, I shall now endeavour to arraign you and your Reverend friend at the Bar of Public Opinion, where, very possibly, these wonderful letters will be produced; and if they do not justify all you have said of them, then I pity you.

I am, faithfully yours,

JOHN HAMILTON.

S. BETHUNE, Esq.

